

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,609,115 to Mehring et al. (“Mehring”)

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mehring.

A. Claim 1

Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Mehring. For example, claim 1 relates to a system comprising a server that has a database which stores a plurality of data types, and a plurality of client devices connect to the server. Also, in claim 1, an access right holding means holds an access right table, and the access right table indicates types of data to which an access is granted/denied for each of the plurality of client devices with respect to the plurality of the data types in the database.

Mehring does not disclose or suggest the features above. For example, as described in conjunction with Fig. 6 of the reference, a user of a remote system (*e.g.*, the ultrasound system 18) (Fig. 1) sends a request to access a selected software application of a service facility 22 (Fig. 1) (step 160). If the user is not already logged onto the system (step 162: No), the user inputs, for example, a username and a password (step 164), which are sent to a policy server 114 (Fig. 4) of the facility 22. The policy server 114 compares the username and password with corresponding information in a user database 124, which is part of a community management database 166, to determine if the username and password are valid (step 166).

If the information is valid, the server 114 determines whether or not the user is authorized to access the selected software application (step 168). If the user is authorized, the system allows

the user to access the software application (step 170: Yes and step 178).

However, Mehring does not suggest data or a table indicating types of data to which an access is granted/denied for each of a plurality of user devices. Also, the reference does not teach granting/denying access for a particular software application for each user device.

B. Claim 2

Since claim 2 depends upon claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

C. Claim 3

Applicants submit that claim 3 is patentable over Mehring. For example, claim 3 states that an access right holding means holds an access right table indicative of types of accessible data, which each user utilizing a database possesses as an access right with respect to the plurality of the data types in the database. Also, the access right is set for each user in units of user groups. An illustrative, non-limiting example of these features is shown in Fig. 23 of the present application. Since the cited reference clearly does not suggest these features, Applicants submit that claim 3 is patentable.

D. Claim 4

Since claim 4 depends upon claim 3, Applicants submit that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

E. Claim 5

Since claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of the claim is moot.

F. Claim 6

Since claim 6 contains features that are similar to the features recited in claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable for similar reasons.

G. Claim 7

Since claim 7 contains features that are similar to the features recited in claim 3, Applicants submit that it is patentable for similar reasons.

H. Claim 8

Since claim 8 contains features that are similar to the features recited in claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable for similar reasons.

I. Claim 9

Since claim 9 contains features that are similar to the features recited in claim 3, Applicants submit that it is patentable for similar reasons.

II. Newly added claims

Applicants have added new claims 10 and 11. Since such claims depend upon claim 1 or 3, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/961,268

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

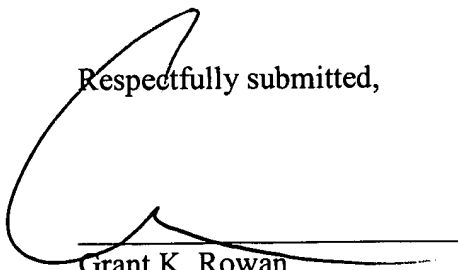
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